

Year	Production of raw cashewnut (Metric Tons)* (Estimates)	Export of Cashew Kernels***	
		Quantity in Metric Tons	Value in Rs. Crores
1994-95	3,48,150	69832	1045.31
1994-95	3,21,640	76900	1241.97
1995-96	4,17,830	97792	1231.07

(Source :

Directorate of Cashew Development, Cochin

**DGCI&S, Calcutta.)

(b) to (f) The domestic production of raw cashewnuts is inadequate to meet the requirements of the processing industry and in response to the demand from the industry to increase the production, various development schemes have been sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. Further, import of raw cashewnuts is freely allowed without any restrictions. The programmes on new plantation development and replanting of old and senile plants with clones of high yielding varieties, implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan will be extended in 1997-98 alongwith adequate resources for transfer of technology to the farmers through training, demonstration and aid literatures etc.

Export of cashew is freely allowed without any restrictions. The steps taken to increase exports of cashew include : participation in international fairs abroad; arranging buyer-seller meets; publicity campaigns in the overseas markets and dissimulation of information on quality requirements of the overseas buyers to Indian exporters.

Trade Agreement with South African Countries

4413. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bilateral trade between India and South Africa has been growing at an extremely impressive rate since the lifting of the sanctions against the South Africa in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the value of the trade between these two countries during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether any trade agreement has been signed between India and South Africa during the visit of Deputy President of South Africa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Year-wise details of trade between India and South Africa for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till Dec. 1996) are given below :-

(Rs./Crores)			
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(Till Dec. 1996)		
Export	500.08	1113.71	892.18
Import	494.81	811.79	765.65

(Source : DGCI&S Calcutta)

(c) and (d) A Trade Agreement between India and South Africa was signed on 22nd Aug., 1994 at Johannesburg. The Agreement provides for grant of Most Favoured Nation status by each country to the other in all matters of import and export licences, customs duties and all other charges and taxes applicable to importation and exportation and transit of goods as well as grant of all advantages, favours, privileges/immunities.

Trade Tie-up with China and Russia

4414 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested that efforts between India, Russia and China can evolve a powerful economic axis;

(b) if so, whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has called for constituting a High Power Working Group consisting of representatives of the Government and Industry to look into the prospects of cooperation and identification of modalities;

(c) if so, whether the Government have accepted the suggestion made by the Confederation of the Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the Government have agreed to have China, Russia and India Trade tie-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No formal proposal from confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in the matter has been received by the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.